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Atherton Urban District Council.

Health and Sanitary Reports
and Statistics

FOR

Year ending December 31st, 1925.

J. MARSH, Medical Officer.

F. MARKLAND, Sanitary Inspector.



ATHERTON :

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ATHERTON.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

JUNE, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, Atherton.

I beg to submit my Annual Report upon the Health of the District during the year 1925.

The District lies upon the Coal Measures—with a subsoil of clay. The elevation above sea level is 102 to 251 feet. The District is a manufacturing town, and has a large proportion of cottage property.

The **Chief Occupations** are Coal Mining, Cotton Spinning Factories, Nut and Bolt Works, Iron Engineering, and the Lancashire United Tramway Co.

The **Area** comprises 2,265 acres.

The **Population** (Census 1921) was 19,863. Estimated Population in 1925, 20,360.

The **Number of Inhabited Houses** at the Census in 1921 was 4,142.

The number of Inhabited Houses is now 4,340, giving a percentage of 4·69 inhabitants for each house.

The **Rateable Value** is £114,336, and the sum represented by a penny rate is £440.

Deaths from all causes totalled 223—106 males and 117 females; giving a death-rate of 10·9 per 1,000 inhabitants. The cause of death is detailed in Table I, comparisons with other years *vide* Table II.

The **Births** numbered 314—males 148, females 166, giving a birth-rate of 15·4 per 1,000 inhabitants; the lowest birth-rate ever recorded in this District (*vide* Table II.)

Deaths of Infants under one year. Total 20; 9 males, 11 females; giving a rate of 63 per 1,000 Births. (Comparisons given in Table II.)

The **Deaths from Tuberculosis** numbered 8; 4 males, 4 females; giving a rate of 0.39 per 1,000 of population (*vide* Table II.)

The **Infectious Diseases** notified numbered 228. (Details will be found on Table III.)

Dealing with **General Matters**, the MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE has taken over the control of free or assisted Milk to necessitous mothers and others, though the distribution of Dried Milk is still undertaken by the Babies' Welcome.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee have also made arrangements for certain Maternity Cases to be nursed at the Haslam Maternity Home at Bolton.

A HEALTH WEEK (our first attempt) was held in November. As far as one can ascertain, this has been a complete success. Lectures were delivered each evening, Demonstrations given at the Drill Hall, Addresses to School Children given daily, Films shown at the Picture Houses, Sermons at the Churches, Quiet Little Talks at various centres, Exhibitions of Mothercraft, etc., etc. A hard working Committee, under the Chairmanship of Councillor R. Kay, with Mrs. K. M. Fletcher as Secretary and Mr. Ramsbottom assisting, deserves the thanks of the town for promoting and carrying through a work of great value.

Probably the most important **Sanitary Improvement** during the year was the further provision of Housing Accommodation, and the higher standard of living conditions in regard to those houses. One is thankful to say that the long rows of houses (ugly, insanitary and dangerous) are now recognised as things of the past, and in their place is being erected a more roomy dwelling with greater conveniences and more pleasant surroundings.

The **Chief Requirements** are (even though we have reduced the percentage of inhabitants to 4.69) still more houses, and (I beg to lay emphasis on this) **Provision of sufficient Open Spaces for Recreation.**

One other great requirement is **Improvement in the Purity of our Milk Supply.**

The Farms in the District I have always described as "fair," but this has been a comparative term, and does not approach the standard that I should personally call "Ideal." At any rate, I have never yet been able to describe them as "good."

A special effort might be made in this year to bring the standard of Milk Supply to a higher grade.

With this Report, I present to you the Annual Reports from the Secretary of the Babies' Welcome, the Sanitary Inspector and the Health Visitor.

The Hon. Secretary of the **BABIES' WELCOME** reports as follows:—

“During the year there were held 42 Meetings. The Attendance of Infants under one year was 1,583, an average of 37·6 per Meeting.

Also attended;—Infants over one year, 297; average 7·07, and a total of Infants attending, 1,880; or an average of 44·7 per Meeting.

There were 527 attendances for Food and Advice, giving a grand total of 2,407 attendances, or 57·3 per Meeting.

There were 118 new Babies enrolled during the year.”

We have been relieved of the Distribution of Free Milk, by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

(Signed),

E. MARSH,

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

This Report shows that a considerable amount of valuable work has been done during the year, and the Town is indebted to a keen, able and sympathetic body of voluntary workers, most of whom have carried on since the formation of the Welcome in 1913.

I take this opportunity to express, personally, my high appreciation of their work, and to tender my sincere thanks for their assistance.

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES MARSH,

Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH VISITOR'S REPORT.

MAY, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Atherton.

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1925, on the Births, Deaths and Health of Infants and Young Children

Under the Notification of Births Act, 1915, 317 Births were notified to the Medical Officer. Information received from the Registrar of Births, 2. Of these, 155 were Males and 164 were Females.

Notified by Midwives, 313.

Notified by Medical Men, 6.

Illegitimate, 9. Still-births, 20

Total number of Deaths of Children under one year is 20.

Under one month, 11.

Over one month and under three, 2.

Over three months and under six, 2.

Over six months and under twelve, 5.

Deaths from Prematurity, 4.

Of the Respiratory System, 8.

Four deaths from Congenital Defects.

One death from Icterus Neonatorum.

One death from Meningitis.

Two deaths from Gastro-Enteritis.

Hospitals where Children have been treated.

Children's Hospital, Pendlebury.

One Infant—Pyloric Stenosis—recovered.

Gartside Street Out-Patients' Department, Manchester,
where a large number of Children have been circumcised,
and Children treated for Rickets.

Number of first visits paid to Infants	...	...	...	299
Total Visits to Infants	...	...	...	2,800
Visits to Children—1 to 5 years	...	...	...	1,600
To Expectant Mothers	...	...	...	90

During Health Week, held in November, a very good Exhibition of Mothercraft was shown—work done by Mothers attending the Class at Hindsford.

APRIL AND MAY.—Several Lectures were given at Hindsford on Food Values and the Best Way to Cook Food, by a trained Teacher in Domestic Economy.

JUNE.—Dr. Crawshaw gave a very Instructive Talk on Children's Ailments and the Complications. Questions were asked, and in this way the Mothers gained valuable information.

From this Class, three Expectant Mothers have been helped with Clothes for themselves and their Babies.

In concluding, I beg to tender my sincere thanks to all who have given me assistance in this work.

I am,

Your faithful Servant,

MARY E. SMITH.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Atherton.

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report of the work done in the Sanitary Department for the year 1925.

General Inspections.

Houses.(including re-visits)	...	...	...	...	...	...	931
Newly Infected Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	131
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Conversion of Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	416
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	138

Smoke Observations.

Observations taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Nuisances reported	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

Nuisances found and abated.

	Found.	Abated.
Houses, etc. needing Whitewashing	137	141
Houses overcrowded	1	1
House Roofs, &c. in bad repair	135	132
Insanitary or Insufficient Closet Accommodation	20	15
Ashpits in Bad Repair	213	221
Defective or Choked Drains	31	31
Yards in Bad Repair	25	25
Animals kept as to be a Nuisance	13	13
Miscellaneous	97	101

As a result of action taken in connection with the above, five summonses were issued, three of which were withdrawn on the payment of costs and the work being done before the cases went to Court. In the remaining instances, the Owner set the Council at defiance, and was subsequently fined.

Four Ashbins were supplied to houses in default of the Owners not complying with the Notices served upon them, and the costs were recovered without resorting to Court Proceedings.

In addition, nine houses had the Yard Drains re-constructed by the Council in default of the Owners not complying with the Notices served upon them, and the costs are being recovered from the Owners.

The Meat Regulations.

NO. OF ANIMALS EXAMINED :—

Beasts :	Calves :	Sheep :	Pigs :
443	156	453	127

FOOD CONDEMNED :—

Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	
1	11	0	18	Tubercular Meat and Organs.
	12	3	23	Other Diseased Meat and Organs.
	—	—	—	
2	4	0	13	
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	

The Meat Regulations have necessarily imposed a large amount of additional work upon the Department, although the amount of Meat condemned justifies the inspection of animals at the time of slaughter.

The quantity of Tubercular Meat and Organs appear to be alarming, but when we consider the total of animals slaughtered, it will be found that this disease only accounts for the condemnation of a very small fraction, viz: '68 % of total Meat examined.

Places under Inspection.

I am giving the following brief particulars as to the number of places under inspection :--

Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Factory Chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Workshops and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Outworkers' Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Ice Cream Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25

Milk Supply.

The Farms, Dairies and Milkshops in the District are being regularly visited. The cleanliness is quite satisfactory, and it has not been necessary to report any breach of the Law to the Council during the year, as I find that a little tact and persuasion is sufficient to deal with any matter that requires adjustment.

The Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

Mr. Supt. Whitehead, of the County Police, has kindly given me a statement of the samples taken by the Police under the above Acts within the District for the year. The samples are as follow :--

Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Ginger	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bi-carbonate of Soda	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Baking Powder	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pepper	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Lard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

There was no action taken against any of the vendors.

Closet Conversions.

The number of Closets converted to the Fresh Water System during the year totalled 7, and 8 additional Fresh Water Closets were provided.

Regarding the major portion of the Privy-middens now in existence, it is mainly owing to the absence of Sewering that these have not been altered, but where a Sewer is within reach, the remaining privies are being dealt with. Endeavours will be made in the future to provide Septic Tanks for Water Closets where this method can be successfully adopted.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The amount of House Refuse removed during the year was 3,398 loads, with a weight of 4,165 tons. This quantity was burnt at the Refuse Destructor.

In addition to the above, 525 loads were deposited on tips, as the Destructor was unable to cope with the whole quantity.

Dealing with House Refuse, I might mention that I have attempted to improve the general state of the Ashpit Accommodation in the District, and I am pleased to add that, so far, satisfactory results have been obtained. Action in this direction helps materially to promote the general cleanliness of yards, lessens the danger to health from flies and dust, and last, but not least, entails a saving to the ratepayers in the cost of refuse collection and disposal.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.

I have to report that there were 512 rats killed by the systematic use of dogs and ferrets. There was no Rat Week held, but the work is continuously carried out during the year.

I have great pleasure in thanking all the Members of the Staff who have given me every assistance in the compiling of my Report.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

FRANK MARKLAND,

Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

1.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres, 2,265.

Population (Census 1921) 19,863. Estimated (1925) 20,360.

Physical features and general character of the area—Elevation above sea level 102—251. Geological formation—Clay over Coal Measures.

Number of inhabited houses (Census 1921) 4,142.

Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921) 4,205.

Rateable value, £114,336. Sum represented by a penny rate, £440.

Social conditions, including the chief occupations of the inhabitants. The District is a manufacturing town, with a large proportion of cottage property. The chief industries are—(1) Coal Mining, (2) Cotton Spinning, (3) Nut and Bolt Works, and (4) Iron Engineering Works.

The influence of any particular occupation on public health. None.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Births in 1925	314	148	166
Deaths in 1925	223	106	117

RATES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Rate of Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
Mean of 5 years, 1920—1924 ...	20·4	11·5	0·76	91
1924	17·0	10·9	0·92	60
1925	15·4	10·9	0·39	63
Increase or Decrease in 1925 on—				
Five Years' Average	— 5·0	— 0·6	— 0·37	— 28
Previous Year	— 1·6	Nil	0·53	+ 3

* Corrected Death-rate ~~12·2~~ per 1,000.

12·1

The amount of Poor Law Relief; the extent to which hospital and other forms of gratuitous medical relief are utilised.—Unable to state.

Any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the period under review; and any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health:—

Measles.

Pneumonia. High figure on account principally of elasticity of application of the term "Pneumonia."

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospital Accommodation provided or available:—

For Smallpox.—Yes; Astley Sanatorium. Where situate? Astley.

For other Infectious Diseases.—Yes; Astley Sanatorium. Where situate? Astley.

Joint or otherwise.—Joint. Leigh Joint Hospital Board. "Arrangement."

Permanent Establishment or Administration Charges plus separate charge for each patient.

No. of Beds available for your district:—For Smallpox: Varies.

For other Infectious Diseases: Varies

Is there any Hospital Accommodation in the district for:—

(a) Tuberculosis: No.

(b) Maternity Cases: No.

(c) Children: No.

Give postal address of Union Infirmary and any other Public Institution in District:
Leigh Union, 702, Leigh Road, Atherton, Lancs.

Have any of the following been provided in your district?:—

Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children: None.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres: Formby Hall, Atherton, every Wednesday, from 2-15 to 3-30 p.m.

Day Nursery: No. (Tried—not used).

School Clinic: No.

Tuberculosis Dispensary: No.

Venereal Diseases Treatment Centre: No.

Ambulance facilities:—

(a) For Infectious Cases: Motor Ambulance.

(b) For Non-infectious and Accident Cases: Motor Ambulance.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health : James Marsh

Salary (including Bonus) as M.O.H. at 31/12/1925, £160.

Is he a whole or part-time Officer ? Part-time. Any other public appointments held by him ? Yes.

Sanitary Inspector : Frank Markland.

Salary (including Bonus) as Inspector at 31/12/1925, £260.

Is he a whole or part-time Officer ? Whole-time.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector : None

Any Specialized Inspector (*e.g.*, Food Inspector) ? F. Markland, Cert. Food Inspector (Royal Sanitary Institute)

Salary (including Bonus) at 31/12/1925 : Above.

Is he a whole or part-time Officer ? Above.

Any other Public Health Officers, such as Health Visitors and Special Nurses :

Miss M. E. Smith, C.M.B., Health Visitor ; £180 and uniform.

Professional Nursing in the Home : Nature of arrangements in the district for—

(*a*) General Nursing : District Nursing Association.

(*b*) For Infectious Diseases, *e.g.*, Measles, &c. : None

By whom provided ? Nursing Association

If not by Local Authority, state financial arrangements and scheme of co-ordination : Voluntary Contributions. None.

Is there a District Nursing Association in the District ? Yes

How many District Nurses employed ? One.

Does any arrangement exist between the Council and the Association in respect of Child Welfare Work ? No

Does the Association voluntarily undertake Child Welfare Work ? No.

Does the Association undertake —

(*a*) Midwifery Cases ? No.

(*b*) Monthly Nursing ? No.

Has any local scheme been prepared in regard to the Supply of Food and Milk for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and of Milk for Infants ? Yes.

Midwives.—Is any midwife employed by or assisted by the Local Authority? No.

Number of midwives on the County Council Register, 31/12/1925.

No. on Register, 7. No. actually practising, 7.

Any comments as to the sufficiency or otherwise of the midwifery service?
Sufficient.

Legislation in force—

Local Orders—

Order of the Local Government Board of April 30th, 1894—Leigh Joint Hospital District.

Order of the Local Government Board of August 8th, 1895—the same.

Order of the Local Government Board of May 9th, 1894—Leigh and Atherton Joint Sewerage District.

Order of the Local Government Board of April 30th, 1895—the same.

Order of the Local Government Board, September 28th, 1894—Alteration of Areas; Financial Adjustment; Sewers, &c.

Order of the Lancashire County Council, June 28th, 1894—Division of District into Wards.

Order of the Local Government Board, January 13th, 1903—Gifts of Property, &c.

General Adoptive Acts—

	Operative from	
Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890	1892	
Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890 (Part 2)	1892	
Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890 (Part 4)	1905	
Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907 (Parts 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6)	1909	(Except Sec. 61)
Private Street Works Act, 1892	1895	
Baths and Wash-houses, 1846-1882	1901	
Public Libraries Acts, 1892-1893	1903	
Notification of Births Act, 1907	1908	
Public Health Act (Whole of) 1925	1925	

Bye-laws relating to public health—

Water Supply : Rules and Regulations—Adopted September, 1882.

Water Supply : Instructions to Authorised Plumbers—Adopted November, 1891.

Standing Orders for Regulation of Meetings, &c.—Adopted April, 1895.

Regulations under the Dairies Cowsheds, &c., Order, 1885—Adopted July, 1894.

Omnibuses—Approved by the Local Government Board, May 10th, 1897.

New Streets and Buildings—Approved by the Local Government Board, May 9th, 1908.

Nuisances—Approved by the Local Government Board, May 9th, 1908.
Removal of House Refuse—Approved by the Local Government Board, May 9th, 1908.
Sanitary Conveniences—Approved by the Local Government Board, May 9th, 1908.
Slaughter-Houses—Approved by the Local Government Board, May 9th, 1908.
Common Lodging Houses—Approved by the Local Government Board, May 9th, 1908.
Market—Approved by the Local Government Board, May 9th, 1908.
Pleasure Grounds—Approved by the Local Government Board, May 9th, 1908.
Whirligigs, Swings, and Shooting Ranges and Galleries—Approved by the Local Government Board, May 9th, 1908.
Tents, Vans, Sheds—Approved by the Local Government Board, May 9th, 1908.
Public Baths—Approved by the Local Government Board, May 1st, 1908.
Observations as to their administration.—None.

3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply—

Source and quality—Manchester and Bolton. Quality good.
Constant or intermittent—Constant.
Approximate No. of dwelling houses supplied. Direct, 4,400. By stand pipe, Nil.
Possibilities of contamination.—Nil in District.
Any liability to plumbic solvent action—Very slight.
Any insufficiency, and where. None, except in one or two outlying cottages.
Nature of extensions during the year. None, excepting housing estates.

Rivers and Streams. None.

Drainage and Sewerage—

Sewage Disposal Works, method of treatment. Leigh Sewage Board.
What is the character of the Drainage System? Any developments during year.—Combined System. No recent developments.
Acreage, or Townships, without proper drainage system.—None.
Action taken—Drain Testing, Flushing, &c. Drains flushed and tested when necessary.

Closet Accommodation at end of 1925—

Privy Middens.—No. of Middens, 37. No. of Closets attached to these Middens, 49.
No. of Pail Closets, 3. No. of Dry Ashpits (excluding Middens) 1,035.
No. of Fresh Water Closets, 2,596. No. of Movable Ashbins for refuse, 1,960.
No. of Waste Water Closets, 1,412.

Conversions—

	During Year 1925.	During Five Years 1921—1925.
No. of Privy Closets—To Fresh W.C.'s ...	7	30
To Waste W.C.'s ...	—	Nil
To Pails, &c. ...	—	Nil
No. of Pail Closets—To Fresh W.C.'s ...	—	Nil
To Waste W.C.'s ...	—	Nil
No. of Waste W.C.'s to Fresh W.C.'s ...	—	Nil
No. of Houses at which Movable Ashbins have been substituted for fixed recep- tacles	66	154

Is there any definite policy at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets?—Yes. The privy middens now in existence are too far from the sewers in the majority of cases. The remainder are being dealt with.

Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion?—Yes.

How much?—Half cost.

What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for new property?

Fresh water closets.

Scavenging—

Character and efficiency of the arrangements for Scavenging and Removal and Disposal of House Refuse for whole of district.—Scavenging done efficiently in whole of District.

How performed (whether by Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses)?

By Sanitary Authority.

Are motor vehicles used? Yes.

If Privy Middens exist, are they emptied by day or night? By day.

How is the Refuse disposed of? Destructor and Tip.

Has a Destructor been provided? Yes. Where? North Road.

Sanitary Inspections during 1925—

No. of Houses visited, 931 (including re-visits).

Defects or Nuisances.—No. discovered, 675. No. abated, 683.

No. of Notices served.—Informal, 675. Statutory, 204.

Legal Proceedings, 5. Result: Fined to £6 0s. 0d. in two cases; three cases withdrawn on payment of costs; twelve cases, work done in default, costs recovered.

Smoke Nuisance—

Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement.—Smoke observations taken regularly.

No. of Observations, 19 No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result, None.

What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour?

Five minutes.

Offensive Trades, None.

Workshops and Workplaces.—What is their condition? Fairly good.

Common Lodging-houses, None.

Houses let in Lodgings.—Action taken or needed, None.

Schools.—Sanitary Condition, Fairly Good. Water Supply, &c., Council's.

Canal Boats.—Number Inspected, N.A.

I—HOUSING.

HOUSING : GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS.

(I.) General Housing Conditions in the Area—

(1) General Housing Conditions. Fair, although, it is desirable to make improvements when the housing shortage is less acute.

(2) (a) Extent of shortage or excess of houses.—There are approximately 300 local applications still on hand for Council houses.

(b) Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage.—140 houses have been erected by the Council, and another 68 are to be erected in 1926.

(3) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future.—None.

(II.) Overcrowding—

(1) Extent.—The overcrowding as regards air space is only slight, but from the moral aspect is rather serious in the poorer quarters of the district.

(2) Causes.—Firstly, shortage of houses; secondly, social habits of certain classes of community.

(3) Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with overcrowding.—
68 more houses to be erected.

- (4) Principal cases of overcrowding during the year 1925, and action taken.
One case of overcrowding dealt with; other accommodation being found for tenant.

(III.) Fitness of Houses—

- (1) (a) General standard of Housing in the Area.—Generally fair.
- (b) General character of the defects found to exist in unfit Houses.—
Defective Roofs, Spouts, Water Closets, Insanitary Ashpit Accommodation; also Dirty Walls and Ceilings of Houses.
- (c) How far defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by owners, or to acts of waste or neglect by tenants.—
Primarily owners are to blame; and secondarily, dirty and neglectful tenants, accompanied by arrears in rent, play a large part in accounting for the state of some of the houses.
- (2) General action taken as regards unfit houses under—
- (a) The Public Health Acts—157 Notices were served for Nuisances and insufficient W.C. and Ashpit Accommodation, and 15 Notices served for Insufficient Drainage.
- (b) The Housing Acts.—32 Notices served.
- (3) Difficulties found in remedying unfitness, either under the Public Health Acts or under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.—Chief difficulty lies in the Whitewashing (Sec. 46, P.H.A., 1875) of Houses. It is desirable that this Section should be amended to include re-papering of walls and ceilings, where this has been previously done.

Special measures taken or suggested—

- (a) Any special action to secure improved management of property by owners.—The law, in my opinion, should be strengthened to enable owners or L.A's. to evict dirty tenants.
- (b) Better care of property by tenants.—I consider that if the above suggestion was put into practice, property would receive more care from owners and tenants.
- (c) The gradual carrying out of repairs according to agreed arrangements.—No arrangements have yet been made, although it is a *sine qua non* that if the owner is taking serious measures to improve his property, the Council does not strictly enforce the time allowed on notice.

(d) Any special method of dealing with unfit back-to-back houses, or other types of insanitary property—None.

(4) Conditions so far as they effect Housing, as regards—

(a) Water Supply -- Satisfactory.

(b) Closet Accommodation.—Satisfactory.

(c) Refuse Disposal —Satisfactory.

(d) Measures taken during 1925 as regards (a), (b) and (c).—The District is well provided for in these respects.

(IV.) Unhealthy Areas

Information as to complaints received or representations made and action taken, in regard to unhealthy areas—No complaints or representations have been made.

(V.) Bye-laws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings, and to tents, vans, sheds, &c.—

(1) As to working of existing Bye-laws.- Fairly satisfactory.

(2) As to need for new Bye-laws or revision of existing Bye-laws—
Clause needed to assist Council in the removal of van dwellers.

VI.—General and Miscellaneous—

Generally, an account of any action bearing on the public health, not covered by the above particulars, which has been taken during the year by the Local Authority in connection with overcrowding, insanitary property, and housing, whether under the Housing Acts or the Public Health Acts, including any action taken by the Authority to provide information as to the proper use of household fittings (*e.g.*, sinks, water-closets, &c.), and the disposal of household refuse so far as possible by burning. During Health Week, held in November, Lectures were given daily, dealing with health matters in general.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

No. of new houses erected during the year—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	...	...	104
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—			
(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	42
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	59

No. of houses in course of erection under Council's building scheme ... Nil

Financial assistance for purposes of increasing housing accommodation :—

Have any advances been made during 1925—

(a)	By loans ?	Nil.	No.	Nil.	Amount of loans, Nil
(b)	By subsidy ?	Yes.	No.	59	Amount of subsidies, £5,900

Unfit Dwelling-houses—

Inspection—(1)	Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	731
(2)	No. of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910 or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	173
(3)	No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	0
(4)	No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	486

Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices—

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	297
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Action under Statutory Powers—

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—

(1)	No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
(2)	No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—							
	(a) By owners,	32.						
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners,	Nil.						
(3)	No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1)	No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	157
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(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—

(a) By owners, 145.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners, 12.

C.—Proceedings under Section 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925—

(1) No. of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders 0

(2) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

(3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit 0

(4) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0

(5) No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

D.—No. of houses demolished voluntarily by owners, or converted to workshops, &c. 1

5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply—Observations on—

(1) The wholesomeness of the milk produced within or brought into the District—Fairly satisfactory.

(2) The general adequacy of the arrangements for the supply and distribution of milk of pure and wholesome character.—Satisfactory.

(3) The administration of The Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders—The work is being carried out satisfactorily.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923—

No. of Dealers' Licences issued during 1925 in respect of:—

“Certified Milk,” None.

“Grade A (Tuberculin Tested)” Milk, None.

“Grade A” Milk, None.

No. of Licences issued in respect of "Pasteurised" Milk—

Pasteurising Plants, None. Retail Distributors, None.

Types of apparatus licenced for the pasteurisation of milk, None.

Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation—None.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops —

Are they periodically inspected? Yes. What is their condition? Fairly good.

Give date of the Regulations made under the Order of the L.G.B.—

19th July, 1894. Are they enforced? Yes.

Amount of air space in cubic feet required for each cow—

(a) Where cows are habitually grazed—600 cubic feet.

(b) Where cows are not habitually grazed—600 cubic feet.

Cowkeepers.—Total No. of Cowkeepers, 19. No. on Register, 19.

No. of Inspections during year, 31.

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers), 9. No. on Register, 9.

Any arrangements for veterinary inspection of dairy cows?—

Mr. Darwell, M.R.C.V.S., of Leigh, by arrangement with the County Police.

Action taken as to—

(i) Tuberculous Milk, None.

(ii) Tuberculous Cattle.—One cow slaughtered in accordance with Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

No. of samples of milk obtained during 1925 for bacteriological examination—None.

(b) Meat.—Observations on—

(1) Meat inspection (including arrangement for inspection at the time of slaughter and for marking under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924; disease in meat and arrangements for disposal of condemned meat.—Animals are inspected in practically every instance at the time of slaughter. Marking of meat is not adopted in the District. The disease most noticeable is T.B. of lungs, liver or head. Diseased meat and organs are burnt at the Destructor.

(2) Administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, as regards stalls, shops, stores, and vehicles—

Shops and stalls are inspected regularly and irregularly.

(3) Has a public slaughter-house been provided? No.

Private slaughter-houses

	In 1920.	In January, 1925.	In December, 1925.
No. registered ..	2	2	2
No. licensed ..	11	11	11
Total ..	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>

(c) Other Foods.—Action taken in respect of places where food is prepared—

Bakehouses.—Number, 25 Condition, Good.

Other Premises.—Fried Fish Shops, 25. Other Premises, 26. Condition, Fair.

Amount of Food condemned or surrendered during 1925 as unfit for human consumption —

	Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Tuberculous carcasses and parts ...	1	11	0	18
Diseased, unsound, or unwholesome meat		12	3	23
Other Foodstuffs.—Frozen Liver, 12-lbs.				

No. of Legal Proceedings and result None.

Food poisoning? None.

Action taken by Local Authority in respect of—

(i.) Sale of Food and Drugs Act. 58 samples of Food were taken by the County Police.

(ii.) Condensed Milk Regs., 1923. None.

(iii.) Dried Milk Regs., 1923. None.

(iv.) Milk and Cream Regs., 1912-17. None.

6.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

The Ministry of Health state the prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the period since 1920 should be reviewed, and noteworthy facts as to the source or spread of infection should be recorded—

Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Erysipelas, Encephalitis Lethargica and Puerperal Fever—No special features.

Measles.—Occasional epidemic.

Typhoid.—Practically negligible.

Diphtheria anti-toxin.—Supply always stocked. Prompt use.

Is a supply kept within the District? Yes.

Where? F. Shaw's, Chemist, Church Street, Atherton.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—Any special occurrence, No.

Scarlet Fever.—Discovery of "return" cases.—None.

Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentery, and Trench Fever.—Experience in regard to these diseases—

Pneumonia—High number of notifications, probably, as before stated, due to elasticity of application of term "Pneumonia."

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations—Arrangements.—T. B. examinations are referred to Tuberculosis Officer, 13, Church Street, Leigh.

No. of specimens examined in 1925 :—Blood None. Sputum...Not known. Throat Swabs...None. Swabs for Ophthalmia Neonatorum...None. Others...None.

Action taken in regard to (a) Contacts, (b) Return cases, (c) Carrier cases :...Contacts are advised as to isolation, etc. No return or carrier cases have been encountered with.

Has any use been made of the tests known as the Schick and Dick tests in diphtheria and scarlet fever respectively, or of the recently developed artificial methods of immunization against these diseases :. None.

Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917....No. of vaccinations performed by the Medical Officer of Health :...(a) primary...None. (b) re-vaccinations None.

If any of the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable in your district, state for what period (see Table on page 13) : ..Measles...None. Whooping Cough...None. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)...None. Chicken-pox...None. Any others...None.

No. of times School Closure adopted during 1925 for...Scarlet Fever...None. Whooping Cough...None. Diphtheria...None. Chicken-pox...None. Measles...Two...April and December. Influenza...None. Any other diseases (specify same)...None.

No. of Reports made during 1925 under Section 14 (4) Sanitary Officers Order, 1922. Subjects of Reports...None.

Influenza...Observations on any special inquiries undertaken in connection with epidemics...None.

Has any special attention been given to (a) cancer, (b) locally contracted anthrax, and (c) rabies :...None.

Disinfection :...No. of houses disinfected during 1925 :...115. Method (state disinfectant used)...Formalin. Are Houses disinfected after (a) Phthisis...Yes. (b) Measles...No. Apparatus used for Clothing, Bedding, etc. (steam or otherwise) Steam disinfection. No of Articles disinfected...Not ascertained. Where is Apparatus situated...Astley Sanatorium, Astley. If Apparatus at Hospital is available, is it used for the disinfection of Clothing, Bedding, etc., of Patients *not* removed to the Hospital...Yes, in special cases. If not, please state how disinfection of Clothing, etc., in these cases is carried out...Gaseous disinfection, Formalin and Boiling. Any arrangement for bathing verminous, etc, persons... Yes. In how many instances has disinfestation been carried out...Eight.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0...1 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1...5	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
5...10 ... ..	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...
10...15 ... ..	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	...
15...20	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	1
20...25	3	3	...	...	1	...	...	1
25...35	2	1	...	2	...	1	1	...
35...45	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
45...55 ... ..	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
55...65	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	1	...	...	1	2	1	...
Totals	13	15	3	8	4	1	3	2

What is the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths...1-39.

In your opinion, is the notification of tuberculosis in your district efficient...Yes.

Has any action been taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify...No.

Is there any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district...No.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

Any action taken under these Regulations (Articles 3, 5, 6 and 7) relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade...No cases.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62.

Any action taken under this section...None. If so, No. of applications for compulsory removal to hospital...None. No. of cases in which Orders were granted...None. Observations...None.

7...MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Ministry of Health state the Medical Officer's Report should include information on :

- (1) The general arrangements made for attending to the health of expectant and nursing mothers and of children under five years of age, including the work of health visitors, midwives, and nurses :...Advice and assistance given where necessary to expectant and nursing mothers, and children under five.
- (2) Consultation and Treatment Centres :...Babies' Welcome, Formby Hall.
- (3) Maternity homes and hospitals and other institutions for the reception of expectant and nursing mothers and young children as in-patients :...In the district...Nil.
- (4) The incidence of maternal mortality and investigations into maternal deaths, still-births, and infant deaths :...One death. Still-births, 20. Premature births, 4.
- (5) The development of ante-natal work at Centres and in connection with the midwifery service where this has proved practicable :...Unsatisfactory. No progress. Expectant mothers will not report, nor can one expect them to do so when they are able to report privately to their own medical man or midwife.
- (6) Methods of dealing with unmarried mothers and illegitimate children and with children permanently or temporarily deprived of a home with their own parents :...No special provision and no distinction made.
- (7) The arrangements for the supply of food and milk :...Dried milk supplied at Babies' Welcome. Orders for Cow's or Dried Milk under direction of Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.
- (8) The arrangements for orthopædic treatment in areas in which such treatment is provided for children under 5 years of age :...None.
- (9) The work of voluntary societies in the area in connection with maternity and child welfare and the place occupied by each in the Local Authority's scheme :...Maternity...None. Child Welfare...Babies' Welcome.

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1925.	Repairs to Insanitary Property. Houses Built.
Chief Sanitary Requirements of District.	Houses.

TABLE I.
ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of Death during the Year 1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH.									MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	106	117
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	14
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	14
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	3
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	21
Arterio-Sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	5
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	15
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Deaths from Violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	2
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	12
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Special Causes (included above)										
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths of Infants under one year	{		Total	...	...	...	...	...	9	11
			Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL BIRTHS	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	148	166
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	142	159
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	7

POPULATION—20,360.

TABLE II.

VITAL STATISTICS.

					Total		Male		Female
Births in 1925					314	...	148	...	166
Deaths in 1925					223	...	106	...	117
							Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births.	
					Birth-rate.	Death rate.			
Mean of 5 years :									
1895-1899					37.1	19.3	1.03		185
1900-1904					31.3	17.6	1.10		174
1905-1909					29.6	13.6	0.92		133
1910-1914					26.5	11.1	1.00		144
1915-1919					20.3	11.0	0.80		110
1920-1924					20.1	11.5	0.76		91
Year : 1924					17.0	10.9	0.92		60
1925					15.1	10.9	0.39		63
Increase or decrease in 1925 on :									
Mean of five years 1920-1924					-5.0	-0.6	0.37		-28
Previous year					-1.6	Nil	0.53		+3

TABLE III.

Notifiable Diseases during the year, 1925.

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED.													HOSPITAL.		Total Deaths.	
	Total Cases at all ages.	YEARS.												Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district.		
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over				
Smallpox	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Scarlet Fever	52	...	3	1	4	6	18	8	4	8	...	...	...	30	...	...	nil
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup...	29	...	...	3	3	1	5	3	6	7	0	1	...	23	2	...	3
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	86	8	5	8	7	13	9	3	5	12	6	8	2	...	...	...	22
Puerperal Fever	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	1	...	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Acute Polio-encephalitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Encephalitis Lethargica... ..	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1
Dysentery ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Erysipelas	12	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	5	1	...	1	...	...	nil
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	28	...	1	...	...	1	...	2	12	8	3	1	...	11	...	...	8
Other forms of Tuberculosis	11	...	...	...	1	...	3	3	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	5
Malaria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Chicken-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Measles excluding German Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Whooping Cough... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Any other disease... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Totals	228	10	9	12	15	21	37	19	20	44	20	17	4	67	3	...	41

TABLE IV.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY during the Year 1923.

(Provisional figures. The Rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a Population estimated to the middle of 1925 while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The Mortality Rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns).

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 yrs.)	Total Deaths (under 1 year.	Causes of Death Certified by Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.		
England and Wales - - -	18·3	12·2	0·01	0·00	0·13	0·03	0·15	0·07	0·32	0·17	8·1	75	92·1	6·9	1·0		
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	18·8	12·2	0·01	0·00	0·17	0·03	0·18	0·09	0·30	0·13	10·8	79	92·1	7·3	0·6		
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000).	18·3	11·2	0·01	0·00	0·15	0·02	0·11	0·06	0·31	0·38	7·6	74	93·0	5·9	1·1		
London - - - - -	18·0	11·7	0·01	0·00	0·08	0·02	0·19	0·11	0·23	0·16	10·6	67	91·1	8·9	0·0		

